



Superfund Fact Sheet Update



Region IV

SCRDI Bluff Road Site

Richland County, South Carolina

March 1989

INTRODUCTION

This fact sheet on the SCRDI Bluff Road Superfund site in Richland County, South Carolina has been prepared by the Region IV Office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The purpose of the fact sheet is to update interested citizens and local officials on the status of EPA's activities at the site since the previous fact sheet was published in September 1988. For a history and description of the site, interested parties should refer to the September 1988 fact sheet. Copies can be found in the information repository listed at the end of this fact sheet. Words that appear in **bold print** are defined in the glossary.

SITE ACTIVITY

Field activity at the site began in August 1988 for those activities that did not need property access agreements. Problems gaining access to two adjoining properties caused a seven-month delay of other field activities. (EPA must obtain permission from the owner(s) of any property that it wants to test before doing so.) The field activities that began in August included sampling the contents of the on-site metal storage tank, lagoon sediment, and lagoon water, and conducting a preliminary **ambient air survey**.

In September, the field sampling program was continued and a program to sample **surface soil** was begun. The on-site operation facilities (**facilities** used to conduct sampling and other site work) and **utilities** were installed. The facilities had to be moved in October, however, because the contractor discovered unexpectedly high levels of **volatile organic compounds** (VOCs) in the surface soils surrounding the operations area. A previous contractor had documented VOC levels at only a few **parts per million** (ppm), but **vapor screening** in surface soil sample holes were greater than 1000 ppm. In addition, a security service was contracted to provide a security guard for the site from 7 pm to 7 am.

In November, the decontamination pad (for cleaning equipment) and water line were installed. Surface soil sampling was completed in December 1988. A survey to determine the number and location of private wells in the area was also completed during December, as was an ecological survey.

The private well survey found five wells within a one-mile radius of the site. The object of the ecological survey was to determine whether any sensitive species exist in the area.

The removal of the tank and its contaminated contents was initiated in January 1989. In February and March, EPA abandoned the wells previously installed by South Carolina's Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), because they were in disrepair. EPA planned and installed new monitoring wells to test the ground water of the site area, and completed the final **soil boring** on the site. Tests conducted so far indicate that contamination has not reached Myers Creek.

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY SESSION

A public availability session has been planned for May 4, 1989. An availability session is a time set aside for interested citizens and officials to meet EPA site officials and ask questions about the site and site activities. The exact time and place of the availability session will be announced in the State.

GLOSSARY

Ambient air survey - test(s) conducted to determine whether contaminants have been released into the surrounding (ambient) air.

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) - organic (carbon-containing) compounds that evaporate (volatilize) readily at room temperature.

Parts per million (ppm) - unit commonly used to express low concentrations of contaminants. For example, 1 ounce of a chemical in 1 million ounces of water is 1 ppm.

Vapor screening - test that determines whether VOCs are present in soil by screening the air immediately next to it, to see if VOCs are evaporating (vaporizing) into the air.

Soil boring - soil sample taken by drilling (boring) a hollow cylinder into the earth.

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INFORMATION REPOSITORY:

Richland County Public Library
Landmark Square Branch
Landmark Square Shopping Center
6864 Garners Ferry Road
Columbia, SC 29209
(803) 776-0855

Contact: Mrs. Claypool

Hours: Mon. through Thurs. - 9:00 am to 9:00 pm

Friday and Saturday - 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

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MAILING LIST ADDITIONS

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please complete this form and mail to:

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